The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

JUNE 2023 VOLUME 20 ISSUE 06 ©Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK

FROM THE EDITOR!

Yeah, I know. I posted that logo last month also. But it bears repeating because this month Field day 2023 is history and we had a good time. Results and a whole lot of pictures to look at in this issue.

Not too much other than that. For the most part, things at the club have been focused around field day and not much else. But, that's to be expected; after all, field day is something a lot of hams think about all year long.

That said, a big **THANK YOU!** Goes out to all the people who contributed to the W7DK field day effort. I can't say exactly how many of you participated, but it was a fairly large amount of folks out there.

Now we're back to the usual summertime doldrums. Coming up in August is the W7DK annual picknic details in the mail bag, be sure to read them. 73 For now. Gary WG7X

Page 1: Editors report.

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Radio Club of Tacoma Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

June 7, 2023

Meeting called to order:

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by President Mike W7XTZ

Officers and Directors Present

President: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Vice President: Adam Barbera W2NCC

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Treasurer: Steve Dightman AF7YD

Board: Bruce Hanson WE7P

Board: Paul Matney W7PFU

Board: Doug Schafer AB7DG

Board: Red Cranefield WB7EC

Board: Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum:

All board members were present and a total of seventeen voting members attended in person or via zoom. The attendance list is attached.

Silent Key or Illness:

Chip Margelli was K7VPF when he was a member of RCT. He was K7JA at the time of his passing.

Tom Lesick W7TJL continues to struggle with his health after heart surgery and the loss of his wife.

Nick Winter K7MO our club trustee has failing kidneys and will not make field day this year.

Approval of Minutes:

Without objections the minutes of the May 3, 2023 Board Meeting as distributed were approved.

Secretary's Report (W7MKE)

Mike W7MKE stated that he'd have weekly Zoom meetings on Thursday nights in July the 13th, 20th and 27th and report results to the BOD August 2nd. Meetings are covering RCT policies formerly known as standing rules.

Treasurer's Report (AF7YD)

Steve AF7YD submitted a written financial report that is attached to the minutes. Financial reports are

available to members on our website once the minutes are approved. Steve indicated we have some deferred expenses, basically clubhouse repairs that have caused our balance sheet to be down about $4K over income Year-to-Date.

He expects it to decline more as we replace losses from the shed burglaries. On a bright note, PMT income Year-To-Date is about XXXX. Thank you PMT for your hard work.

Committee / Reports

Membership (W7XH/K7GRS)

Mike W7XH reported membership is at 305 and he'd just processed three new members.

There was a report that the Clark County club has 480 members and that M&K has grown to 300 members as well in the last couple of year and they are now looking for a new meeting place to accommodate their growth.

Training (AD7AB)

Stephen AD7AB submitted an email report that he'd have a technician training this weekend June 10-11, with 12 signed up already.

VE (AC7WW)

Last VE report was May 9th and next session is June 13th

Info Tech/ Website & 4th Wednesday (WB4SPB)

Randy WB4SPB reports all systems nominal (computer systems and website). Randy stated that the pictures Shirley Keen KK7GZL took of the club's directors are on our website.

For now, Randy doesn't have a topic for 4th Wednesday but possibly Doug AD7AV may present on American Morse with sounders and such.

HF Operation (K7PIA)

Phil K7PIA reports that Adam W2NCC purchased an Icom-7610 for the club from money donated by many club members and at no draw on the club treasury. It is placed in the HF room where the Elecraft was.

See www.contestcalendar.com for radio sport. Some upcoming contests are ARRL June VHF Contest June 10-12th and all Asia CW contest, and of course Field Day is the 24th-25th this month. See www.NG3K.com for DXpeditions.

Facilities Management (W2NCC)

Adam W2NCC reports most of the fascia and soffit work is nearing an end and the contractor is still working to finish the job. Adam thanked several club members for their help on this project. Also, thanked Mike W7XH who redid our power drop.

Adam reports that the garage roof is at end of life and materials will cost $800-$1000 does the Board want to do that this year? Consensus seemed to be to go forward on this now. Mike W7XTZ, Adam W2NCC, Gary WG7X, PJ N7PH and Paul W7PFU each volunteered to donate $100 toward this job. (Already donated and recorded. Ed.) Adam reports that Bob K7MXE, said he can get LP siding seconds for the club for the cost of fuel to bring it from Montana. This would be for the garage. No action was taken on this offer pending further review.

Repeater Ops (N7OMS)

Al N7OMS reported on the work on the Bates repeater: heliax is all installed, ready to hook up, we were donated a 440 repeater so we could update John Marsden's KI7YRC W7TED 442.45 repeater with a cabinet style GE Master II type. We are close to getting our 145.210 repeater tuned and ready to take out to Bates. The other repeaters are working fine.

Property Management (WB7EC)

Red WB7EC reported that this month we've taken in $XXX and perhaps that much more at Sea-Pac. Red WB7EC moved to dispose of the items on the attached list. Adam W2NCC seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Museum (KD7SV)

Dan KD7SV reported ordering two soft start and soft key bias modules for the Drake L4-B amplifiers, and they should be here in a couple of weeks. He discussed various issues with the Drake amplifier repairs.

Dan has been trying to help Jack Kalina WA7VDI get his radio on the air and may have both antenna and transceiver issues plus operator errors. Jack suffers from memory issues, so it is difficult to assist him. Jack has offered some antennas to the club.

General Meeting (W7UUU)

Dave W7UUU reports the meeting for June would be a presentation on commercial antennas for small spaces. In July we will do a Field Day wrap up and in August we will have a presentation on the new IC-7610.

Unfinished Business

Any updates to Field Day?

Adam W2NCC reports that Warren NG7G our 40M manager might not be able to be at FD so Gary WG7X will loan the club his Icom 756 Pro III. Nick K7MO reports he's not able to come to FD this year and cannot loan his rocket launcher mast for the 15M monobander. Some alternatives were discussed: AF7YD's falling derrick mast, or a ladder.

Mike W7XH reported he got a bid from Platt Electric for the needed cable and ends. Mike W7MKE moved that we authorize up to $3000 for purchase of power cables for Field Day. Motion was seconded by

Doug AB7DG**.** Motion carried 8-1. This is a cable to replace the cable that was stolen from our shed.

Until we get the alarm on our storage shed, Gary WG7X agreed to store our cable.

Updates on Insurance inventory (AF7YD)

Steve AF7YD reported he would be done with accounting preparations and be able to give it to the teams after FD.

Update on acquisition of IC-7610 (W2NCC)

Adam W2NCC reported on the acquisition of the Icom-7610 and turned it over to the Club.

Update on Grant Writing (W2NCC)

Adam W2NCC reported on attending a seminar on grant writing at Sea-Pac and took away several tips on grant writing. He has the contact information on the presenter and has/will reach out to him for additional tips. One thing he learned is criteria which was what are the benefits to the community that the grant would serve so this grant will be about our repeaters and not clubhouse repairs or library needs.

Update on Training Videos for HF radios (N7OMS/W7UUU)

Al N7OMS reported that he and Dave W7UUU are ready to set down at the Flex and record a video.

Adam stated he'd do the same for the Icom-7610

Mike W7XH asked if the BOD has addressed his request that the BOD address the aging of the club's membership and how to get new members.

The BOD has not had a formal meeting to address this, but several people offered what they'd been doing to get new members.

New Business

Nothing offered.

Activity Reports, Discussion Topics, Announcements

Al N7OMS asked if there was interest in Bunny Hunting. He has a crew and equipment ready to go it there is interest please contact him.

Adjournment at 8:26 pm

Submitted by

Michael Drorbaugh W7MKE

RCT Secretary RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

Radio Club of Tacoma

General Meeting Minutes June 14, 2023

Officers and Directors Present

President: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Vice President: Adam Barbera W2NCC

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Treasurer: Steve Dightman AF7YD

Board: Doug Schafer AB7DG

Board: Phil Pia K7PIA

Board: Red Cranefield WB7EC

Board: Paul Matney W7PFU

Meeting Called to Order at 7 pm by President Mike W7XTZ

Flag Salute: Led by Leonard KA7NWF

Quorum? (10% of voting members for Quorum) A total of 24 voting members attended all or part of the meeting in person or via Zoom. The attendance list is attached.

Welcome and Acknowledgement of New Members and Visitors:

No visitors

Health and Welfare/Silent Key & Illness

The following former members were recalled at the meeting.

- Chip Margelli (SK) K7JA 5-26-23 RCT #523
- Jim Keselburg (SK) K7WUH 2-2023 RCT #528

PROGRAM:

Dave W7UUU gave a presentation on the performance of commercial antennas for small spaces. Dave reviewed 8 commercial limited space antennas using his Icom-7300 (mostly).

We will try to make a link to the presentation available on the RCT website.

- MFJ 1979 ¼ wave vertical whip ($150 plus mounting)
- Firestick Mach-10 ($75) 10m
- Caras HF-315 magnetic STL Loop ($200) Not for outdoor use. Extremely narrow band width.
- N3VAN Bugout EFHW ($65). Not actually an LS antenna but wire can be very thin.
- MFJ-1622 Balcony Antenna ($165) Very fussy to adjust to resonance.

• Basic ½ wave dipole ($35).

• Elecraft AX-1 20/17 ($120) Very compact can fit in coat pocket. Not a durable antenna, easily broken.

• Isotron-10 ($110). Sharp resonance- narrow bandwidth. The only radiating component is the coax shield!

For outdoor use, these antennas seemed to work about equally! So, the takeaway is: how will the antenna be mounted? This should primarily determine which design will fit you best.

Four antennas were taken indoors and compared to a superior quality outdoor antenna.

• Dipole 7' from floor

• Isotron – 10 7' from floor

• Firestick

• MFJ – 1622

None of the antennas worked well on SSB indoors.

For digital modes like FT8 indoor LS antennas may work satisfactorily.

• Elecraft AX-1 on 40m FT8 using 20 watts made adequate contacts.

Secretary's Report W7MKE

Mike W7MKE reported that he plans to hold Zoom meetings about the club's policies (formerly called Standing Rules) on Thursdays at 6pm, July 13, 20th and 27th with a report to the BOD on August 2nd. If anyone wants to take part in reviewing our club's policies, please let me know so I can be sure to let you know.

Treasurer's Report

Steve AF7YD reported that he gave a report to the June BOD and through May the club has spent about $4k more than its income, mostly for club repairs. Upcoming expenses of note will be the garage reroof, final payments to the contractor for the clubhouse repairs, and work on the tower and Field Day.

Committee / Activity Reports

Membership (W7XH/K7GRS)

Mike W7XH reported that the club membership stands at 309.

Training (AD7AB)

Stephen AD7AB reports via email:

We had a great class this weekend (June 10-11) and everyone is planning on testing out on Tuesday evening 6-13. One person may not take the test on Tuesday due to a work conflict. We had 10 attendees with one of them already being a licensed ham but brought in his grandson to join the hobby.

VE Report (John AC7WW)

Leonard KA7NWF read the VE report from John AC7WW:

Tuesday June 13th your VE Team had two successful sessions. Nineteen candidates were served. Thirty-five exams were graded with eight new Technicians, one was 16 years old, seven Generals and one Extra. Two candidates did not receive their initial license.

Thanks to the following for their service and time.

Leonard KA7NWF, Brendan WA7BMK.

Rich KK7VH, Rob K7TGU.

Stephen AD7AB, Mike AD7TH.

The next scheduled test session is Tuesday, July 11th, 2023.

HF Operations (K7PIA)

Phil K7PIA reported that all HF stations are working, and the following contests were upcoming: All Asia CW this weekend and Field Day next weekend. He reported that Dan KD7SV was still working on the Drake amplifiers and the VHF/UHF station is still not entirely setup but has received a Kenwood D700 donated by Bob AD7LJ for use on FM modes and digital. He reported the station has received the Icom-7610 donated by

Adam Barbera W2NCC who led a group of members who donated money and equipment to sell to buy the radio without using the club's treasury.

Repeater Operations (N7OMS)

Mike W7MKE reported that the club just received an invoice from the WA State Department of Natural Resources for about $4.8K for rent of the Crawford Mountain repeater. If the legislature allocates money for repeaters for amateur use as they have in the past, this bill will go down to $100. We must check this out with DNR to find out the status.

IT Report/4th Wed Night Activity (WB4SPB)

Randy WB4SPB reports that all systems are nominal and as, yet he has nothing for sure for 4th Wednesday.

Museum (KD7SV)

Dan KD7SV reported that he is waiting on parts (soft start and soft key mods) for our Drake L4-B amplifiers and will repair them with Gary WG7X's help when they come.

Property Management (WB7EC)

Red WB7EC reports that in May income was $XXX. In June we already have about that same amount due to Adam W2NCC and others who sold stuff for the club at Sea-Pac. A new distribution list is posted on the Board. Red reports he received about 20 pounds of stuff from the estate of Jim Hatfield K7SSS (SK), and it is mostly VHF stuff and mementos.

Facilities Management (W2NCC)

Adam W2NCC reported most of the soffit and fascia work is complete. There is still painting and reinstalling the gutter to finish the project. We now have a material list for the garage roof replacement. We are contin-

uing to work on the alarm system. Adam thanked several club members for their efforts to help with the club repairs. Doug Schafer AB7DG, Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE, Gary McAdams WG7X, Mike Isakson W7XH, Paul Nosal N7OSS, Paul Matney W7PFU, and others have all donated their time for these projects. Mike W7XH reminded us that Al N7OMS is trying to get volunteers for tomorrow to help dig a ditch between the garage and the shed for the electrical conduit for the alarm system.

Bark Editor (WG7X)

Gary WG7X reported that the last issue was good, and the next issue will include lots of stuff about Field Day.

Unfinished Business

• Icom-7610 project: Adam W2NCC reported about the Icom-7610 project that includes also getting a 32GB SD card, a special monitor cable, and a Nifty Quick Start Guide. Adam also planned to get two new monitors for that station and two club members bought those monitors so that completes phase 1 of that Icom-7610 project.

• Field day updates: Warren NG7G, our 40m manager will not be able to take part as planned and Gary WG7X will supply his Icom-756 Pro III for that station. Also, Nick K7M0 will not be able to attend and so we will not have the use of his rocket launcher mast. Mike W7MKE has a 27' ladder that he has volunteered to use for the 15m beam.

• Rod Kirsch our Field Day manager has a medical procedure on the 16th and may not be able to do anything on Field Day.

New Business

Mike W7XTZ brought up that Bob K7MXE asked why we do not have more of a presence on social media like Face Book. W7DK does have a presence on Discord, Face Book and Group IO but none are regularly active. If Bob would like to see more activity, he should volunteer to head that up.

Announcements/show and tell/ traffic & Tuning.

• Field Day is on the 23rd and 24th.

• Dave W7UUU reported success in getting his StepIR DB-18 beam up. He will have a video in July.

Adjournment was at 8:45 pm.

Submitted by

Michael Drorbaugh -W7MKE

RCT Secretary

Now the part that everyone has been waiting for: W7DK's Field day report / message.

In the pages that follow, we will see mostly pictures that your editor Gary WG7X had taken as well as pictures from some of our members, most notably President Mike W7XTZ and Al N7OMS.

There were others who had taken pictures and they intended to send in those pictures to the newsletter. Unfortunately, most of them did not follow up with pictures or articles by publication time, but never fear, there's still time to submit anything that you folks want to submit. There's always next month's Loggers Bark.

This report will mostly be in picture form because there were many people there that I did not get names for and to be fair I will post the pictures as received in a collage format with comments and leave it to our readers to winnow through them to spot themselves or their friends. Have fun looking!

Leading off the parade we have two intrep-id Cub reporters taking pictures of each other! For historical purposes of course...

Field Day 2023 operating report for W7DK, By Randy WB4SPB

The raw log contained 1374 QSOs. After six busted call signs and 17 dupes were removed, our final log contained 1351 QSOs. Breakdowns:

QSOs by band	
QSOs	**Band**
693	20
443	40
153	15
47	80
14	10
1	2

QSOs by mode		
QSOs	**Mode**	**QSO points**
651	CW	X2 = 1302
476	PH	X1 = 476
224	DIG	X2 = 448
		Total = 2226

Our power multiplier is 2 (100 watts or less), so our QSO score = 4452.

We earned bonus points as follows:

Bonus points	
Points	**Bonus category**
500	7.3.1 100% emergency power using 5 transmitters (100 points each)
100	7.3.5 Section Manager message
100	7.3.6 Formal traffic, 10 points each for up to 10 messages handled
100	7.3.8 Alternate power, 10 QSOs using a solar-charged battery
100	7.3.9 W1AW Bulletin copied
100	7.3.10 Educational Activity, conducted by Doug AB7DG
50	7.3.14 Submission of entry via website
20	7.3.15 Youth participation (20 points each)
100	7.3.17 Safety Officer report
1170	**TOTAL BONUS POINTS**

Our total score: 4452 QSO points + 1170 bonus points = 5622.

Our score is a bit shy of last year's 6220, and this is accounted for by the fact that we made fewer digital contacts this year and more phone contacts (digital Qs being worth more) and also because we garnered fewer bonus points this year.

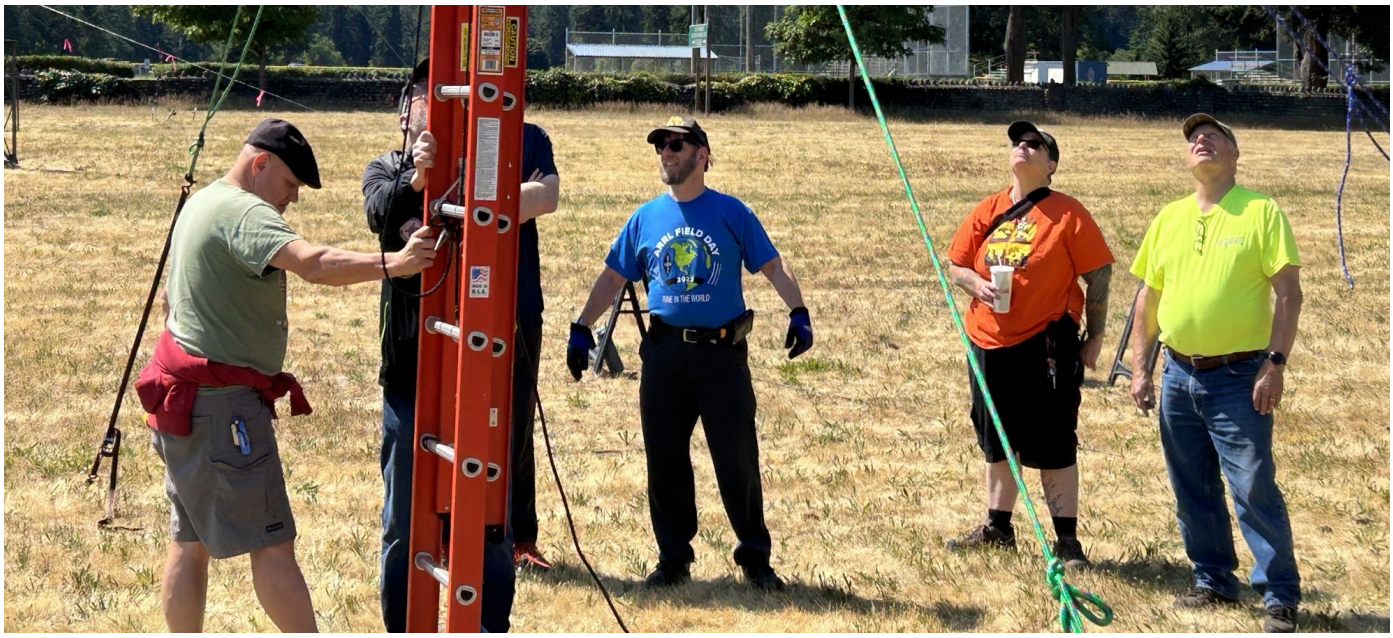
Our 28 operators were: K7MM, WB4SPB, W2NCC, N7NWT, W7XH, W7MKE, KG7ZYB, W7XTZ, KA7DCX, WG7X, KG7HWU, KC7MSA, KE7RTB, KK7HAY, K7YEM, AF7YD, KD7OFF, AI7FP, KA7NWF, KD7SV, N7OMS, N7TES, KG5ZIF, AG7CX, W7WKE, WB7TVS, K7PJP, AG7RX

"Operating" honorable mention:

Dan K7MM made almost 20% of our QSOs by himself, and mostly on CW.
Andy KE7RTB valiantly attempted to make a satellite contact. Kudos even though it didn't work out.
Max KK7HAY once again gained us a youthful operator bonus and made 18 QSOs.
Doug Shafer AB7DG got us 100 bonus points in each of three categories (300 points total): formal message handling, educational activity, and safety officer's report.

...And now… The pictures. Antennas, people setting up antennas followed by pictures of operators, food, all that good stuff!

Below, the "Emergency backup 10 meter antenna" that saved the day after the big yagi originally slated for that job had issues. Just a data point: some old CB stuff is still useful. Antenna is an old Shakespeare "Big Stick" CB antenna.



Antennas! Gotta love ‘em! Hard to put up but so necessary to any good field day operation.

Top, from left: Rod, Leonard, Marie , Mike and hiding behind the ladder is ?

Right, final assembly of what is probably the 15 meter antenna.

Think they need a couple more hands in there?

Left, 15 meter antenna on the ladder. Bottom; AB-577 “Rocket Launcher” antenna support going up. We had two of those supporting 20 meter antennas.

Left: Adam, W2NCC on top of a really tall ladder working on the 15 meter beam. Got it fixed too. (Cable problem).

Below, Deanna, Lloyd and Mike enjoy lunch. Grilled ham and cheese courtesy of W7DK and chef Paul. Thanks go to Paul and Jan for cooking all week-end…

.

Left: the operating tent with people inside.

Below, operating tent before filling up with people, equipment and other stuff.

Some strange looking Editor type fellow just standing around inside the empty tent. Probably an inmate from the local hospital that our field day site was on...

If you know, you know… Operators pictured, but not limited to Adam W2NCC, Mike W7MKE, Dan KD7SV, Bruce WE7P, Randy WB4SPB, Ruff AI7RB and Al N7OMS.

Two groups of folks, top, we had a lot of visitors and there are way too many to name. Anyone is welcome to try!

Left, I know the names but not all the calls so; Manny with back to camera and yellow shirt, Rod and Adam, Bob, Ellen and another Bob? Sorry to say I'm not sure about the last gentleman.

Two more groups: Funny thing, even with their backs to the camera, Left Deanna, Ellen, Bob and Mike. Below, Doug, Bob, Manny (again!) Phil, Deanna and two fellows in the middle who I can't identify...

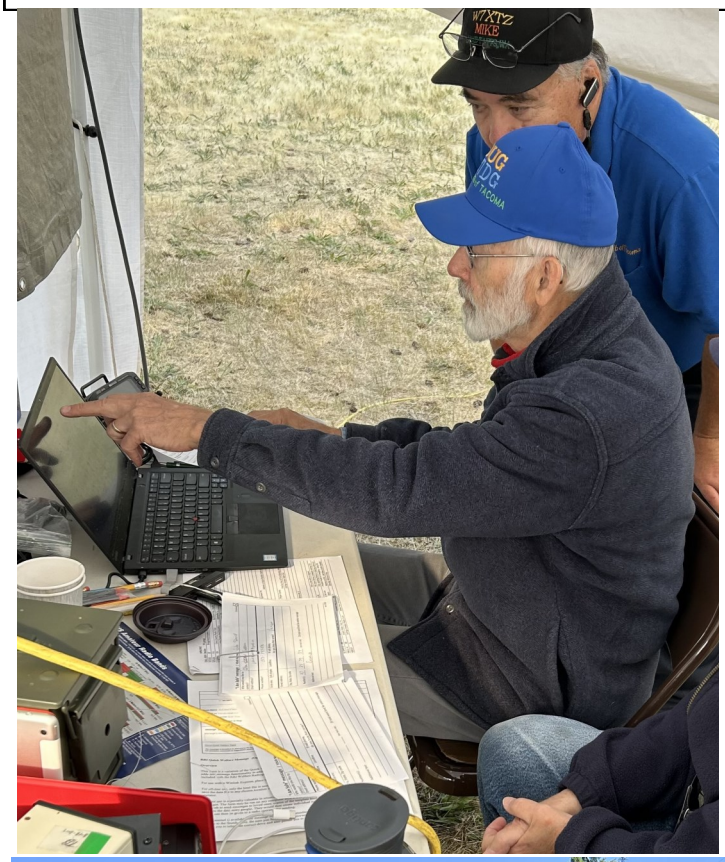
Jan and Paul making breakfast Logger Style on Sunday morning. For dinner on Saturday, they made “griddle food”, cook-out style, with cheeseburgers, hot dogs, and all the usual stuff that W7DK is so good at doing. Strangely enough, there were no desserts until Dan KD7SV brought Cake! And a good cake it was too!

Jan is doing omelet duty while Paul mans the grill. Thanks again guys, it was **GREAT!**

There was even some leftover cake for those of us with sweet tooth problems!

CAKE! Nuf said!

Operating on Saturday, first one side, then the other!



Bonus points! Left, Doug and Mike doing ARES education I think. Below, Andy, Leonard and a couple of others during the satellite attempt. I think I remember Andy, (red shirt) saying that no satellite contacts were made. But it wasn't for lack of trying!

Two of our unsung hero's who did a lot of the behind the scene work. Even did the hard work in the hot sun on Friday.

Top, Mike W7XH our electrician hero.

Bottom Steve AF7YD our antenna guru.

Thanks guys!

QRZ

by Dave W7UUU

News you can use!

This month's topic: All Things in Moderation

Hello everyone and welcome back to the QRZ News You can Use column! As a staffer of the largest ham radio site in the world and

Director of the QRZ Forums, every month I hope to bring you behind-the-scenes info on the workings of this great web site that most hams use in one way or another.

This month I wanted to shed some light on the hierarchy of QRZ Forums moderation, how moderators are selected, who does what, and how moderation decisions are made.

First off, all QRZ moderators are referred to as a "Volunteer Moderator" although we in fact usually

recruit hams we think would be good at the job. Very often folks who actually volunteer are doing so simply because they think they'll get access to the "Ban Hammer" or otherwise wield their new

authority to win arguments, settle old debts, and establish their own fiefdom of control! Well, that seldom works out well in the end. So instead, we look for users who seem to have a level head, are regular posters to the site, and seem to have good language skills. Fortunately, we rarely lose or gain moderators.

Traditionally, there was never much of an actual hierarchy to the various moderators. It was pretty laid back and casual for a lot of years. The bulk of moderation was handled by the site founder, Fred AA7BQ. Knowing that moderators were giving of their own time freely, QRZ never wanted to push for actual team leaders among the moderators outside of Fred himself. That would cut too closely to it being a real job, instead of a part-time activity. It was left to those who spent the most time on the site to establish themselves as the head of the team. The other mods would just come and go as they please, never having a regular schedule.

However, we've now moved to a more formal system. Fred sought to hire an individual to take over management of the Moderator Team as well as the QRZ Forums themselves. Over the course of a couple years, he considered several candidates and ultimately asked if I'd take on the role as a full staff member. And of course I said yes.

So these days, I head up the team and guide the direction and tone of the forums, always with the goal of keeping the discussions lively, friendly, and above all, trying to keep the "moderator presence" as invisible as possible.

My two top assistants are Tom, W9YW and Hart, K8VHL, with newcomer Josh WX7JM as the newest member of the team. All moderators are free to wander the various forums, and quietly deal with issues that come up and handle various "reports" of postings that violate the Code of Conduct for the site.

The Swapmeet forum is a special case, and I handle 99% of all issues that occur there. There's a bit of nuance in the swap and lots of experience is required lest we have a bunch of upset sellers with an overzealous overseer!

Moderation decisions can be made by any of the moderators at any time. But big decisions, like banning users from replying to a hot-topic thread when they can't control themselves, up to full-on site bans, are usually handled via discussion. Unbeknownst to normal users, there is an elaborate "Moderator's Forum" where we will discuss such actions and determine the best course of action in a team discussion.

But in the end, I am the only mod (outside of Fred who seldom gets involved these days) with the authority to ban a user in any capacity. I take that responsibility very seriously—especially when paid users are involved in a ban debate. Bans can run from as short as a 1-day "thread reply ban" to a permanent ban from the entire QRZ site. Those are rare—but we have to issue that level of ban several times a year. Usually however, those cases are for egregious things like getting caught perpetrating fraud, or for other extremely serious issues.

Lastly, we have a whole category of "Special Moderators" who handle more mundane housekeeping-related issues, such as entering new DX members into the QRZ database, keeping tabs on the Silent Keys forum and updating SK bio pages as needed, working out QRZ Logbook issues for users, etc. Important stuff, but unless you're involved in one of those issues directly you'll not likely encounter any of these moderators.

So that's about it for this month's column—I hope you enjoyed it and got something out of it. And by all means, if there's any topic relating to QRZ and how the site works, shoot me an email and I'll be happy to address it in future column.

Until then, 73!

Dave
W7UUU

MAILBAG!

Also from Dave W7UUU

Hi all,

Just a reminder to put in the Bark, on the Website, and for the July General Meeting "announcements" that the annual W7DK picnic will be Sunday August 6th at Shelter 1, Fort Steilacoom Park 8714 87th Ave. SW, Lakewood, WA. Load-in can commence at 10:00 AM, general membership should arrive no earlier than 11:30, and cleanup no later than 3:00. No booze, no smoking, no vaping - usual rules. This is the same shelter that we've had the picnic since 2016 so should be familiar to most.

I will try to get it on the Tuesday net, but I've lately had a conflicting activity on my Tuesday nights - so hoping others can make that announcement - I likely won't be able to work the net prior to the picnic.

Thanks!

Dave

W7UUU

Now President Mike W7XTZ has this:

Received from Monte Simpson our ARRL section manager.

Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ:

---------- Original Message ----------

From: "Simpson, Monte, W7FF (SM, WWA)" <w7ff@arrl.org>

To: "w7xtz@w7dk.org" <w7xtz@w7dk.org>

Date: 06/26/2023 8:43 PM PDT

Subject: RCT Field Day 2023 SITREP

Michael Mikuchonis, W7XTZ,

This evening I received a phone call from a ham relaying your RCT Field Day 2023 SITREP. Please let your team know I appreciate the 55 members and 6 ARES members who made Field Day a Success. You have a magnificent venue at Western State Hospital.

I hope RCT had a safe and enjoyable Field Day 2023.

Regards, Monte W7FF ARRL WWA SM

Now we hear from P.J. Hicks N7PH.

WARNING, Danger Jack Robinson…

By P. J. Hicks, N7PH

I came across a thread on one of the forums warning of the very real possibility of the Astron Power supplies shorting out the power output terminals. It turns out that there were other forum members who had experienced that same issue. In talking with a friend, he told me he had suffered the same shorting issue and it had cost him a fortune to replace the damaged gear. How many more are there?

The Astron is one of the most popular power supplies in the amateur community. It is reasonably priced, lasts forever, well built, reliable, and pretty much RF free. Apparently it has a weak point that few hams notice. That weak point is the ancient output terminal design.

Our operating benches are covered with all manner of metal, wires, and other metal objects that are conductive. When, not if, one of those objects rolls off the desk and shorts the terminals, a flash of light, a crack of sound, and the magic smoke rolls out. And it takes out the power supply regulator circuit and a full 37 DCv is sent to your equipment.

As a precaution I changed out the terminals on all four of my Astrons. I didn't use just your common binder posts. These are larger, built on ¼" or 6mm conductors and are very stable as well as well protected/shielded. An easy 10 minute swap.

Amazon listing; QMseller 10 Pcs Terminal Binding Post M6 Threaded Diameter JR2068

The Mighty DK's!

Monthly QSO Report

Each month in the *Bark* the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. Saturday Open House, especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Assistance is almost always available for those unfamiliar with the equipment, and if your license class doesn't permit HF operation, ask the denizens of the HF Room or the Saturday clubhouse host to help you find a suitably-licensed control operator to sit with you.

It's a feather in the club's hat for the call sign of **The Mighty DK** to be heard on the airwaves. So get on the air and get your name in the *Bark*! (Don't forget to enter your call sign as the operator into our logging program.)

Clubhouse QSOs May 27 through June 30, 2023:

- Phil K7PIA: 1
- Randy WB4SPB: 1
- Mike W7MKE: 56
- Mike W7XH: 90

Do you need help with some area in ham radio?

Here is a place……. First is the listing of areas of support,

followed by a list of members' areas of interest.

Elmer Board

Do you need help with some area in ham radio?
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	Name/Call Sign /Phone Number/ Topic
1.Technical questions, Classes	Adam W2NCC 360-870-7894 (4,5,6,7,11)
2. Help with Code	Al N7OMS 253-495-9068 (10,12)
3. License Examinations	Dave N7HT 253-363-1692 (1,2,4,6,8)
4. Antenna and Station planning	Dave W7UUU 253-820-0890 (2,4,6,9) and more
5. Antenna and Tower erection	Gary WG7X 253-327-0503 (1,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12)
6. Buying new or used equipment	Mike W7XTZ 253-405-8095 (6,8,10)
7. Equipment repair	Phil K7PIA 253-307-4781 (9,10,12)
8. Understanding and operating your equipment	Randy WB4SPB 253-761-9391 (2)
9. DX and Contests	Stephen AD7AB 253-212-9437 (1,3,4,12)
10. Club and ARRL activities	Steve AF7YD 253-988-0878 (4,5,10,12)
11. Using test equipment	
12. IRLP , Digital, SDR, ARPS, Winlink,Vara, Satellite	

The Club LINEUP

Club Officers

President: Mike Mikuchonis –W7XTZ w7xtz©w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc©w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE - w7mke@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd©w7dk.org

5 Board Members

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p©w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu©w7dk.org

Doug Schafer AB7DG©w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec©w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia©w7dk.org

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) membership is $35 per calendar year or $30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia © 1500 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3